

Zero Beat

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc. - our 45th ARRL affiliated year

April 1993

Next HCRA Meeting

The next Hampden County Radio Association meeting will take place on April 2, 1993 and will feature Mike Gruber, WA1SVF. Mike, who is a representative from the ARRL, will talk about product reviews. This would be a great opportunity to check out some of the newest toys on the market. Don't Forget about the HCRA's 5 minute "open forum" before the meeting. Discuss your feelings about the HCRA. Doors open at 7:30 and the meeting will promptly start at 8:00 P.M. Hope to see you there!

Feeding Hills Congregational Church
Route 57 & 187
Feeding Hills, Massachusetts

The next board meeting will take place at Dave Olson, K1MVR's QTH. Feel free to ask for directions, anyone is welcome!!

Club Officers



Board of Directors

Expiring 1993

WA1YCA Tryon Cote
KA1TBS Fred Gore
KA1QFE Bob Gutowski
N1GVV Adam Olson

Expiring 1994

KA1WER Paul Geng
NR1L Kevin Hilinski
W1ZGP Bob Lever
K1MVR Dave Olson

Officers

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary

Larry Lemoine N1EPE
Fred Stefanik N1DPM
Greg Stoddard N1AEH
Jim Sebolt N1DUY

IN THIS ISSUE....

President's Message	Page 2
Spotlight on The Crowd	Page 3
I Kerchunk, Therfore I am	Page 4
VHF Contest Award Program	Page 5
Flea Market Info	Page 5
The Fascinating World of QRP	Page 7
June Election Info	Page 9



Is Field Day in Jeopardy? - See editorial

President's Message

At the March meeting we had about 20 participants show for the "open issues" night. The weather really caught us by surprise. When we made the decision to have the meeting the weather wasn't too bad yet. But it sure came down during the meeting! I do appreciate all those who braved the storm to attend and also for sharing with the Board members present their candid views.

Following is a brief summary of the key topics discussed:

- The HCRA should continue to be a "general interest" club.
- The Board should plan occasionally to have non-ham speakers at monthly meetings.
- By a show of hands, members in attendance want the banquet reinstated either at the church or similar location.
- For the club to grow in membership, the Board needs to consider offering Novice classes or even upgrade classes in the Fall.

Novice Classes- like the Marines, we're looking for a few good men or women! If you feel like helping to teach a class next Fall please let any Board member know, or give me a call. There is some interest already by one club member in teaching a class, but we all know it takes more than one to run a class. Perhaps you'd be willing to do a presentation on your particular expertise?

Field Day- it's hard to believe sitting here while the blizzard is raging outside that Field Day is rapidly approaching, only 3 months to go! We'll be passing around a sign-up sheet at this month's meeting for any club members interested in helping out or participating during Field Day. At the May meeting club members interested in any aspect of Field Day are being asked to attend a brief meeting promptly at 7:30, prior to the regular meeting time of 8:00PM. If you can't make it but still want to be involved in Field Day, just contact any Board member.

Election of Officers- what a great opportunity to serve the club! As an Officer of the HCRA you can really make a difference. Please consider it. What better way to help plan and actually participate in the management of the club! If you're interested in running please complete the form enclosed in this issue and mail it in or give it to one of the following Nomination Committee members:

WA1YCA-	Tryon Cote
KA1TBS-	Fred Gore
KA1QFE-	Bob Gutowski
N1GVV-	Adam Olson

Nomination forms must be received by the May meeting, so if interested please don't hesitate in submitting the application.

We've got two great speakers and topics for the next two meetings, sure would be great to see a big turnout! Hope to see you all there.

73's
Larry, N1EPE



SPOTLIGHT ON THE CROWD

A Focus on a member
of the HCRA

IN THIS ISSUE:

Adam Olson N1GVV

1. Please introduce yourself

"Hello. my name is Adam Olson, N1GVV. I am a Tech and have been licensed since December 1988."

2. How did you get started in ham radio?

"I got started in Amateur Radio when my father got a HF radio and talked to people all over the world. Then with the help of a novice class and my father, I passed the novice test at age nine."

3. Did you have an elmer?

"Yes, I had an Elmer. He is my father. He showed me what Ham Radio is and he also helped me study. He kept me studying for my Novice and then my Tech."

4. What type of equipment do you use?

"For equipment, I use a Kenwood TS-690 with a G5RV and an A-4 beam on HF, a Digicom TNC for packet, an IC-2600A 2 meter all mode with a 12 element beam, and my IC-24AT 2/440 HT."

5. What areas of ham radio are you most active?

"I am most active in contests, including the January, June, and September VHF contests. I also enjoy participating in a few HF contests and Field Day. Field Day's have been great (and very tiring!) experiences. I also enjoy talking on 2 meters and 440 FM.

6. What goals do you have in ham radio?

"I would like to get a 10,000 point award from the HCRA, maybe even a 100,000 point award. I would also like to get my General license. I have already passed the theory part."

7. What was your biggest thrill in ham radio?

"My biggest thrill in Ham Radio is tied between last year's HCRA Field Day, operating 20 and 40 meters, and getting 5,025 point in the January VHF contest. Being elected to the Board of Directors of the HCRA this year was also pretty thrilling"

8. What are your interests outside ham radio?

"Other than Ham Radio, I enjoy boating, water sports, swimming, biking, snowmobiling, and skeet and sport shooting"

Spotlight on The Crowd is a monthly article by club members and for club members. It is essentially a biography of members of the HCRA. I will be selecting members each month at the regular meetings to interview for this column, using the same questions monthly and they will appear in this same format. If you would like your biography in ZB, please let me know in person, or send me your biography in the mail. Thanks, editor (NR1L).

I Kerchunk, Therfore I am

I KERCHUNK, THEREFORE I AM

Kerchunk: Either a verb or a noun, but usually a verb. From the German, kerchunken; to kerchunk a repeater. "I kerchunk, you kerchunk, he/she/it kerchunks."

Whenever I kerchunk, I always identify. This not only keeps many from being "rubbed the wrong way," but has resulted in many a nice QSO.

A good kerchunk tells you many things:

1. Your transmitter is working.
2. Your receiver is working.
3. Your antenna is working.
4. The repeater is there.
5. The repeater receiver is working.
6. The repeater transmitter is working.
7. The repeater antenna(s) is (are) working.
8. The call of the repeater.

Sometimes my kerchunk is answered by an anonymous kerchunk. But it seems my kerchunk is always a higher quality than his kerchunk.

"I love the smell of kerchunk in the morning."

There is a local chapter of KA soon to form in this area. MJF will soon market a kerchunk detector which will print out each month the date, time, and call for each and every kerchunk.

It will result in the FCC charging 25 cents per kerchunk. It will be added to your income tax. The new 1040-K forms are being printed even as I type.

National Kerchunk Day will be established by congress next year. On this day only kerchunking will be allowed on repeaters. Anyone actually engaging in a conversation will lose his kerchunking privileges for a period not to exceed 90 days.

Recently, kerchunkers have been heard on 20 and 25M. Is this a trend? When I operate 6M, I sometimes kerchunk my neighbor's TV. Have you kerchunked your repeater today?

There will soon be an award, "KAS." 73 de K9CUN, Jack.

The Baltimore Radio Amateur
Television Society (*Worldradio*, April 1993)

Future Meetings

April- In April we will have a representative from the ARRL to give a product review on some of the newest toys out there. This would be a great opportunity to get an idea of what gear you should be shopping for.

May- This meeting we have planned a speaker to discuss feedlines. This is a great chance to see a technical meeting for those of you that miss seeing Tech Corner. Ed Hare, KA1CV will show you all about feedlines and related topics.

June- The board has still not decided exactly what will happen in June. A banquet is still a possibility,

or maybe a regular speaker. Regardless on what happens, it will be combined with the June election. We will be asking for your input at the April meeting before we decide on what to do. Also don't forget about Field Day on June 26th and 27th. Field Day is in serious trouble this year due to a lack of interest. Please read the President's Message for more info about this. Sign the clipboard at the next meeting to let us know you would like to participate. Field Day is an important aspect of Ham Radio that allows the ham community to train in case of an emergency. Don't let the HCRA lose this event, it is an extremely fun time for all.

10,000 - 100,000 - 1,000,000 POINT CLUB UPDATE

Well it's time to tally up the scores again. The last time I reported on this, I had just received the results from the June VHF QSO PARTY. Since then the results have been published for the ARRL UHF CONTEST, and the SEPTEMBER VHF QSO PARTY. These contests did not show much participation by HCRA members. Congratulations are extended to the following for their participation; K1WVX, NM1K, N1EJG, and W1RIL. W1RIL also has placed himself in a new category. Ken's efforts have now made him an official 100,000 Point Club Member with a current cumulative score of 170,644! Congratulations Ken, and remember it's now a L O N G W A Y to the One Million point level. I'll report again as soon as the 1993 January VHF Sweepstakes scores are published. I'm sure that there will be alot of changes to make in the list, and I've heard some "rumblings" that we may see a few HCRA members make the Million Point mark!! Stay Tuned For More Details.

73's Fred M. Stefanik, N1DPM

Editor's Note: Congratulations go out to Fred, who is getting married this month.

Call	Score	Call	Score
KA1EXJ	30	KC1TV	2604
N1EUZ	36	N1ABJ	3210
N1JOF	42	N1DOP	4020
WA1EYF	58	N1JJD-M	4112
KA1FHX	72	K1CYD	4128
NJ1E	84	WB1FIP	4550
N1IED	84	KA1VED	4840
W1VNE	99	WB1ETS	5175
WB1FIQ	110	KA1WER	6047
WB1GLZ	126	KC1ZJ	6049
W1DGJ	129	KA1QAS	6175
WA1YCA	170	K1WVX	6295
N1FFZ	185	KA1TBS	6462
W1MM	204	KA1QFE	6462
KC1TH	208	N1JJD	7698
K1MVR	215	K1BE	7698
KA1CRX	224	W1ZGP	10556
KA1QHG	268	K1BE-M	11284
N1GVV	354	KA1WER-R	12095
N1EVE	366	KA1TBS-R	12924
N1EPE	370	N1EJG	13028
W1ALL	396	K1CPJ	13505
K1JDL	396	NM1K	16440
W1UWX	408	K1II	16764
N1JOH	412	NA1W	27400
WA1SMH	465	K1FO	29400
K1BXE	616	NC1B	39397
W1CJK	650	W1KK	39397
KB1MU	834	NC1I	39397
N1CDR	847	WA1UQC	39397
WQ1X	860	AC1T	39693
WA1JUJ	945	KC1ZN	75606
N1AEH	1050	KA1ZE	106220
W1ETH	1120	K1GX	107251
W1NMQ	1157	W1RIL	170644
K1JAO	1776	N1DPM	183786
WA3EEC	2400	WINY-M	236385
KA1VEC	2400		

Don't forget the Flea Market!!

This is just a reminder that the HCRA's flea market is coming up this month! It will take place on Sunday, April 18, 1993, and will be held at the Southwick Recreational Center in Southwick, Massachusetts. Talk in frequencies are 449.175 AC1T/R and 146.520 Simplex. Doors will open for general admission at 9:00 a.m. and for vendors only at 6:00 a.m. We will also be conducting Radio VE Exams. It is suggested that if you are interested in taking a test that you pre-register by calling Yorke

Phillips, K1BXE. Yorke is the HCRA's VE Liaison. If you are interested call Yorke @ (413) 566-3010. General admission for this event is \$3.00. Vendor tables are \$10.00 in advance and \$13.00 at the door if available. For more information pick up one of the flyers at the next meeting or contact Paul Geng @ 114 Riviera Drive, Agawam, MA 01001. His phone number is (413) 789-2334. Please call before 10:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!!

For all you HAM Radio Operators.....WAVELENGTHS provides you with this "wall hanging" to answer those often asked questions by visitors to your "shack."

NOTICE

To All Visitors

What you are about to witness is an Amateur Radio Station licensed as:
_____, by the Federal Communications Commission.

Before you ask questions...here are the answers!!

1. The total cost of this equipment cannot be discussed here, as it creates marital conflicts.
2. No, we cannot send a message to your brother in Hong Kong ... We suggest you call Western Union.
3. This is strictly a hobby; we do not have the facilities or the time to fix TV sets, radios, or Hi-Fi equipment. We suggest that you see a serviceman.
4. Yes, the antenna in the backyard is essential to the operation of the equipment.
5. The farthest station we have contacted has been in the Ubangiland.
6. The cards on the wall are called QSL cards. They are confirmation of contacts made with other stations.
7. OH, NO!!! Never does this station equipment interfere with television reception.

IF YOU ARE INVITED TO SPEAK INTO THE MICROPHONE...

Please observe the following rules:

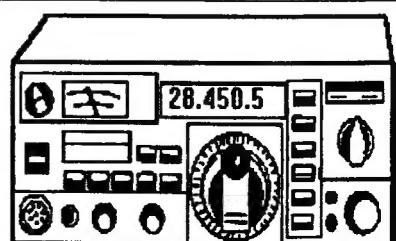
1. Speak in a low and soothing tone.
2. Do not disagree with me in any manner.
3. Say no bad words and tell no off color jokes.

DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING, TURN ANY KNOBS, SIT ON EQUIPMENT, ETC.

I have lost several visitors by electrocution in the past few weeks.

Reminder!!

This is just a little reminder to let you know that the club call, W1NY is available for any members to use for any radio event such as contests and dxing. Just write a little note to the board of directors to ask permission.



The Fascinating World of QRP

The world of QRP is an area as old and exciting as Amateur Radio itself. And yet, it's as new and refreshing as the latest model transceiver or any of the new and special frontiers of radio communications. QRP, the technique of using very low power for two-way communications, holds outstanding challenges and personal gratification unequaled by many other specialized modes of Amateur Radio operation. Visualize, for example, contacting over 100 countries while using a small coat pocket-sized transceiver. Or, imagine contacting Amateurs nationwide while using a transmitter the size of a postage stamp. Impossible? Indeed not: such feats are accomplished every day, by Amateurs just like you or I, while operating QRP.

The majority of QRP activity is conducted on the 80 through 10 meter (HF) Amateur bands, and involves working both in-country and DX stations while running five watts or less output power. The challenge is supreme but, the personal pride of achievement is absolutely beyond description!

After using low power for a few months, many QRP operators find additional challenges and enjoyment while using less than five watts output power. Others progress even further and pursue two-way communications while using mere milliwatts of RF energy on the HF bands. Favorable returns often convert casual QRPs into full time devotees! Linear amplifiers are soon ignored or traded as these with-gusto operators realize it is not what you have, but how you use it.

Amateurs accustomed to using 100 watts or higher power occasionally question the logic of using exceptionally low power levels. Why chance the guesswork and possible loss of a special contact when high power improves the odds? Why indeed, might one prefer traveling in a nimble sports car rather than a larger four door vehicle or why would a sportsman prefer big game hunting with a bow and arrow rather than a shotgun?

In addition to sharpening skills and improving operating techniques, QRP instills a high degree of pride and a sense of fair play on the bands. Communications take on real meaning rather than simply being statistics on a page. They produce factual results that the operator, rather than the rig, is what actually makes the difference! Many Amateurs spend an incredible amount of time proving that their rig works as expected (like working easy DX with 100 watts on the HF bands). Conversely, using QRP ensures that both the operator and his station are tops in efficiency and performance. Indeed successful communications while using only a few watts of power is usually 30 percent rig and antenna effectiveness, 60 percent operator expertise, and 10 percent luck.

Want to sharpen your on-the-air operating skills, learn how to work DX like a champ, and be a top-notch operator under a wide variety of conditions? Start operating QRP! It's a blast of unlimited fun and excitement, that you can enjoy at home, while camping or vacationing, or even mobile. The small size and low battery currents required for QRP gear is especially appealing for on-the-spot outdoor operating. Indeed, such low power stations can be set up in many places where big rigs simply are not feasible!

I heartily encourage you to join the fascinating world of QRP today. I am sure you will find the pursuit fascinating, and that it will open many new avenues of enjoyment. Go for it! Good luck to all until we meet on the air, and 73!

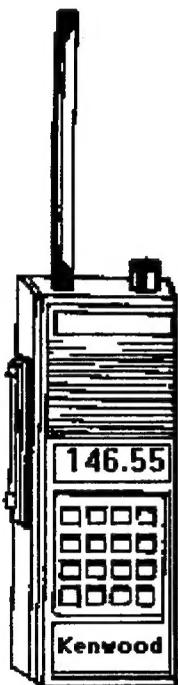
Dave Ingram, K4TWJ
"How to Get Started in QRP"

**HCRA's Field Day
June 26 + 27th, 1993
Agawam High School**

Editorial

This month I would like to express my opinion on an issue that has come up recently. This is strictly my opinion, and not necessarily the opinion of any other club officer. It concerns Field Day. Field Day is coming up the last full weekend of June. We need club participation in this event. For those of you who are unaware what Field Day is, it is an exercise to practice portable operations in case of an emergency. I feel it is important to practice this. For example, if a natural disaster occurred, it could be lifesaving. Anyway, what bothers me is the lack of club members who participate. I have been going to Field Day since 1987 and I have steadily noticed the number of club members participating dwindling down.

This year the board has decided to possibly even cancel Field Day if the general club membership fails to show an interest. Another point, for those of you feel that our effort is not open to the general membership, or feel intimidated, I urge you to reconsider. Last year, we had several stations that sat idle for many hours during the event. Field Day is also extremely fun! Last year we even had pizza delivered to the high school field at midnight! Field Day also is a great opportunity to camp out overnight, and socialize with other members of the HCRA. This year, if a Field Day takes place, it is open to any change from the current system. If you would like to see a different format, location, etc., please speak up at next months 5 minute "open forum." We will also be passing around a pad that you can sign if you are interested. Please sign up, even if you think you might only help set-up, only operate, or only socialize. If enough people sign the pad, we will meet at 7:30 prior to the May meeting to begin the organization process. Well, enough from me, just keep in mind that ANY club member can participate in Field Day. We need the participation! I would hate to see such an important aspect of Amateur Radio canceled, because not enough HCRA members were interested. If you have any questions about this issue, please feel free to contact me, or come to the next meeting and sign up!!



73, Kevin NR1L
17 Pilgrim Drive
Tolland, CT 06084
(203) 872-6197

April Radio Factoids

4/2/47- This was for mixed mode, per the new DXCC rules announced Nov. 15, 1945. DXCC was originally conceived and announced in 1937, and re-initiated after WWII.

4/13/23- This was the first shortwave amateur two-way exchange of information across the eastern Pacific. 6ZAC on Maui worked 6ZAF and 6ZQ in California.

4/14/12- The sinking of the Titanic, terrible as it was, showed the value of wireless for ships in summoning aid.

4/25/1874- Guglielmo Marconi took wireless telegraphy using "Hertzian Waves" from a laboratory experiment, involving distances of a few feet, to a practical reality. He borrowed much from his contemporaries but also advanced the radio art on all fronts, especially in the area of antennas and propagation.

4/27/1791- Samuel F.B. Morse gave up a successful career as an artist in mid life, in order to investigate and develop telegraphy.

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCAITON, INC.

P.O. BOX 482

West Springfield, MA 01090-0482

APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION FOR ELECTION TO OFFICE

I,

(Print your name here)

(Callsign)

Hereby place my name in nomination for election to the office indicated below:
(Circle one candidate office below)

President

Vice- President

Treasurer

Secretary/Clerk

Director (2 year term)

I certify that I am now, and will maintain my status as, a current regular member, and if elected, will uphold the duties of the office and the standards of the HCRA.

(Sign Here)

(Date)

Return this form when completed to the HCRA Secretary/Clerk.

91 Feb 16 - JRS - N1DUY

June Election Info

Well, it is coming close to that time of year again, the HCRA's annual election. If you are interested in running for a position, we strongly recommend it this year! This would be a great opportunity for you to participate and help turn this club into one of the best around. This year we will have several positions open for candidates. President, Vice President, and four board positions. Don't be shy, if you are interested please contact Larry, N1EPE, or any other club officer. You can also fill out the application form in the space above, and bring it to the next meeting. Just give it to Jim Sebolt, N1DUY. Or mail it to the club P.O. Box. If you are not sure what is involved, you can ask any of us, or better yet attend the board meeting on April 8 at 7:30 P.M.

This month's board meeting will occur at Dave and Adam Olson's house, located in Enfield, CT off of route 5. Don't hesitate to ask for directions at the next meeting. This would be a great chance for you to experience exactly what goes on at one of these meetings. Anyone is welcome. Keep in mind that this year's election will be held at the Church. This will allow for more club participation. The board made this decision based on the surveys and poor attendance when it was combined with the banquet. This year's election policy will remain similar to the past year's system, see elsewhere in this issue for more information.

73, Kevin NR1L

From the editors desk.....

This month again I would like to thank all involved in the processing of Zero Beat. I hope everyone likes the format. Again, I would like to encourage you to mail me articles. I would like to invite anyone who would like their classified to appear in Zero Beat to mail it to me. Just send it to me via the address below. Any type of help wanted, for sale, or wanted classified is welcome. Just keep in mind that it cannot be business related. Not much more from me, I hope to see you at the meeting.

73, Kevin NR1L

Send Your Articles to:

Kevin Hilinski
17 Pilgrim Drive
Tolland, CT 06084
(203) 872-6197

HCRA's Flea Market
Sunday April 18, 1993
Southwick Recreational Center
Doors Open 9:00 A.M.

Help Wanted

The local March of Dimes chapter in Springfield has requested communications assistance for their annual "WalkAmerica" 10K walkathon. This event will require 8-10 hams to provide public safety and communications for the event.

Date: Sunday, April 25, 1993

Time: 8:30 A.M. to Noon

Route: Start/End at Springfield Elks Lodge, Tiffany Street
6+ mile route in Springfield and Longmeadow

Hams participating will need at least a 2 meter HT and a spare battery.

If you are interested in helping out and having some fun, contact Steve Nelson, WA1EYF at (413) 596-8216.

NOTE: This is the weekend after the flea market.

Editor: Kevin S. Hilinski NR1L

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.
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West Springfield, MA 01090-0482

Forwarding + Address correction requested

First Class Mail



AC1T E V C R 14 I 10/93